

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4134

INFO USMISSION NATO

DIA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMFAIRMED

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SCATTERED LOCAL ELCTIONS TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 16

REF: ROME 11410

1. LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 125 COMMUNES NOVEMBER 16. ABOUT 324,000 ELECTORS ARE INVOLVED; 206,000 IN COMMUNES OVER 5,000 POPULATION USING PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM AND 118,000 IN COMMUNES UNDER 5,000 INHABITANTS USING MAJORITY SYSTEM. TOTAL POPULATION OF COMMUNES INVOLVED IS AOUTB 45,000.

2. VOTERS INVOLVED COMPRISE LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE. NO PROVINCIAL CAPITALS ARE INCLUDED. LARGEST TOWNS VOTING ARE LA MADDALENA (SASSARI), GAETA (LATINA PROVINCE), SULMONA (L'AQUILA), AURIANOVA (REGGIO CALABRIA), BIULIANOVA (TERAMO), AND TUSCANIA (VITERBO),

3. MOST INTERSTING CONTEST FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IS LA MADDALENA. ALTHOUGH DC RECEIVED AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (52 PER CENT) IN 1970 LOCAL ELCTIONS, ITS TOTAL DROPPED T ONLY 39.6

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PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE 1974 SARDINIA REGIONAL ELCTIONS. THE

VOTE TOTAL OF THE MODERATE PARTIES TAKEN TOGETHER (DC, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS) WAS 54.6 PERCENT IN 1974 - DOWN FROM A TOTAL OF 72.8 PERCENT IN 1970. DESPITE THE FACT THAT COMBINED SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST VOTES IN 1974 AMOUNTED TO ONLY 35.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, THE LOCAL DC HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT MAY LOSE ITS MANDATE IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. THE CAMPAIGN AT LA MADDALENA SO FAR HAS BEEN LOW KEY AND HAS NOT FOCUSED ON THE US PRESENCE.

4. EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE SURPRISES CONNECTED WITH LA MADDALENA CONTEST, NOVEMBER 16 ELECTIONS ARE OF MARGINAL SIGNIFICANCE. THIS WILL NOT PREVENT SOME POLITICAL COMMENTATORS FROM DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY IF TRENDS OF JUNE 15 VOTE APPEAR TO BE CONFIRMED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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